

SENATE BILL 1554
By Ford J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1,
relative to the rights of grandparents in child protection
proceedings.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 1, is amended by adding
Section 2 through 6 of this act as a new part thereto.

SECTION 2. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires, "grandparent"
means the biological or adoptive parent of the child's biological or adoptive parent.
"Grandparent" does not include the parent of a child's parent who consented to adoption or
whose parental rights have been terminated.

SECTION 3. A grandparent of a child may petition the court for standing and intervenor
status in any child protection proceeding under this chapter. The standing and intervenor status
is limited to that proceeding unless otherwise ordered by the court.

SECTION 4. The court shall grant standing and intervenor status when the court finds
that the grandparent has an existing relationship or has made sufficient effort to establish a
relationship with the child, that such status would be in the best interests of the child and that
such status would also be consistent with the purposes of this chapter, as set forth in
Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-101.

SECTION 5. In any proceeding when standing and intervenor status have been
granted, the grandparent may request the court to order that the child be placed with the

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grandparent. In making a decision on the request, the court shall give the grandparents priority for consideration for placement if that placement is in the best interests of the child and consistent with the purposes listed in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-101.

SECTION 6. Nothing in this act limits the department from removing the child from the grandparent's home if the child is in jeopardy.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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